

**THE DECOLORIZATION OF TREATED PALM OIL MILL  
EFFLUENT (TPOME) BY USING BITTER GOURD ( MOMORDICA  
CHARANTIA) PEROXIDE ENZYME**

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**Final Year Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons.)  
Applied Chemistry in the Faculty of Applied Science  
Universiti Teknologi MARA**

**APRIL 2009**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First of all, thank you to ALLAH S.W.T that finally; this report had been finished punctually. I would like to express my greatest and special thank to those who helped me in order to finish this report successfully. In this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my supervisor, Ass.Prof.Lee Kok Kheng for his guidance, encouragement, and constructive comments from the start to the completion of this report.

I would like express my acknowledgement to my beloved parents, all the family members, and also for who involved in this report for their support and continuous encouragement to me. Without their support, this report may not be completed in time.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all my fellow friends who are always provided assistance whenever I need them.

Thanks to all of you...

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## ABSTRACT

### THE DECOLORIZATION OF TREATED PALM OIL MILL EFFLUENT BY USING BITTER GOURD (*MOMORDICA CHARANTIA*) PEROXIDE ENZYMES

Palm oil is one of the two most important vegetable oils in the world's oil and fats market. The extraction and purification processes also generate substantial volume of palm oil mill effluent (POME). The environmental impacts of POME cannot be over emphasized; hence the need for treatment measures to reduce these impacts before discharge. The ponding method of POME does not consistently produce an effluent of treated POME (TPOME) that can comply with the discharge limits of Department of Environment (DOE), particularly the color of the effluent which is normally dark grey in colour. In this study enzyme was employed to treat TPOME sample from a local palm oil mill using bitter gourd enzyme (*Momordica charantia*). The best dosage and pH were determined based on the highest efficiency of colour removal and COD reduction. The experimental results show that the best dosage was 2.1mL/5mL at pH 4.0. The corresponding reductions in COD and colour are both at 84.0%. Since the treatment of TPOME by bitter gourd enzyme did not reduce the colour and COD to below the DOE discharge limits, the resulting TPOME was further treated by photocatalysis using titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) and UV radiation. It was found that photocatalysis was still unable to decolorize TPOME because the added enzyme produced more colour after UV radiation. However, to remove further the colour and COD of TPOME, it is recommended to investigate the effect of dosage and isomer type of TiO<sub>2</sub> on decolorization.